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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 1 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in your capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to transmit the attached copy of the note verbale sent to your Executive Office (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter, the note verbale and the attached statement circulated as soon as possible as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 110.

Cuba forcefully rejects the manipulation of an issue as sensitive as international terrorism.

Cuba reiterates that the Government of the United States should respect international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and should therefore cease all unilateral actions against Cuba, which have been rejected by the Cuban people and international public opinion.

(*Signed*) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and wishes to inform it of the following:

- On 30 April 2014, the United States Department of State published its *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013*, which designates Cuba, absurdly, as a "State sponsor of terrorism" for the thirty-second time.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations wishes to reiterate that the Government of Cuba has reaffirmed that Cuban territory has never been and will never be used to harbour terrorists of any nationality or to plan, finance or carry out acts of terrorism against any country in the world, including the United States. Likewise, Cuba unequivocally rejects and condemns all acts of terrorism, wherever, in whatever circumstances and for whatever reason they are committed.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba forcefully rejects the manipulation of an issue as sensitive as international terrorism in order to advance a policy against Cuba. It demands that Cuba be removed definitively from this spurious, unilateral and arbitrary list, which is an affront to the Cuban people and discredits the United States Government itself.

In view of the above, the Permanent Mission of Cuba requests the Secretary-General to circulate this note verbale and the attached statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see appendix) as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 110.

Appendix

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 30 April 2014, the United States Department of State published its *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013*, which designates Cuba, absurdly, as a "State sponsor of terrorism" for the thirty-second time.

However, the State Department was forced to recognize in its own report that in 2013, "the Government of Cuba supported and hosted negotiations between the FARC [Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia] and the Government of Colombia aimed at brokering a peace agreement between the two"; that "[t]here was no indication that the Cuban government provided weapons or paramilitary training to terrorist groups"; and that "ETA [Euskadi Ta Askatasuna] members in Cuba were relocated with the cooperation of the Spanish government".

Nonetheless, political considerations and the need to justify at all costs an embargo that has failed and been unanimously rejected by the international community have once again prevailed over reason.

The sole pretext on which the State Department bases this slanderous charge against Cuba is a reference to the presence in Cuba of "fugitives" from United States justice, none of whom, it should be noted, have been accused of terrorism. Some of these citizens have legitimately been granted asylum, while others who committed crimes in the United States were duly tried and punished, and chose to reside in Cuba after having completed their sentences.

The Government of Cuba reaffirms that Cuban territory has never been and will never be used to harbour terrorists of any nationality or to plan, finance or carry out acts of terrorism against any country in the world, including the United States. Likewise, Cuba unequivocally rejects and condemns all acts of terrorism, wherever, in whatever circumstances and for whatever reason they are committed.

It is the Government of the United States that uses State terrorism as a weapon against countries that oppose its domination, using reprehensible methods such as torture and employing advanced military technology, including unmanned aerial vehicles, to extrajudicially execute alleged terrorists, including United States citizens, and causing the deaths of many innocent civilians.

For decades, Cuba has been among those countries that, in defending their independence and dignity, have suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that were planned, financed and carried out from United States territory; in Cuba, such acts have killed 3,478 people and left 2,099 disabled.

Cuba, Latin America, the Caribbean and the world will never forget that the Government of the United States continues to harbour terrorists of Cuban origin, such as Luis Posada Carriles, who masterminded the first terrorist attack on a civilian aircraft in the western hemisphere, which caused the in-flight explosion of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft off the coast of Barbados on 6 October 1976, killing the 73 passengers on board. Paradoxically, that same Government continues its unjust and prolonged imprisonment of the anti-terrorism fighters Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero for crimes they did not commit.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs forcefully rejects the manipulation of an issue as sensitive as international terrorism in order to advance a policy against Cuba. It demands that Cuba be removed definitively from this spurious, unilateral and arbitrary list, which is an affront to the Cuban people and discredits the United States Government itself.

Havana, 30 April 2014